GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:106
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2013
CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS UNDER PMGSY
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives and the guiding principles of the PradhanMantri Gram SadakYojana (PMGSY) including the funding pattern;

(b) whether any norms have been fixed to regulate the kilometre expenditure on construction of road under PMGSY in the country including Bihar and if so, the details thereof including per kilometre rate fixed for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government propose to hike the aforesaid rate, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has received any complaints of irregularities in the construction of roads under PMGSY from various States including Bihar; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/being taken by the government against the guilty including the mechanism put in place to monitor the quality of construction of roads under PMGSY?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (e) of LokSabha Starred Question No. 106 due for answer on 12.12.2013.

(a) The objective and the guiding principle of PradhanMantri Gram SadakYojana (PMGSY) is to provide connectivity by way of an All-Weather road (with necessary culverts and cross-drainage structures, which is operable throughout the year), to the eligible unconnected habitations with a population of 500 persons (as per 2001 Census) and above in plain areas. In respect of `Special Category States`, the Desert areas, the Tribal (Schedule V) areas and Selected Tribal and Backward districts as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs/Planning Commission, the objective is to connect eligible unconnected habitations with a population of 250 persons and above (Census 2001). The programme envisages single all weather connectivity. With a view to ensuring full farm-to-market connectivity, the programme also provides for the upgradation of the existing Through Routes and Major Rural Links to prescribed standards, though it is not central to the programme. The PMGSY is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The sources of funds for the Programme are Cess on High Speed Diesel (HSD), Budgetary Support, ADB Loan, World Bank Loan and NABARD Loan.

(b) and (c) In order to provide connectivity by way of an All-Weather road, a Manual on Geometric Standards, Design, Construction and Maintenance of Rural Roads is prepared by the Indian Roads Congress (IRC) as `Rural Roads Manual IRC SP: 20`. The States are required to prepare the Standard Schedule of Rates (SoRs) for items of road works based on prevailing State rates and also to revise the SoR every year. Accordingly, based on Rural Roads Manual IRC SP:20, state specific SoR and PMGSY Guidelines, the States prepare Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for sanctioning of Rural Road projects. Hence, the cost of rural road projects, including per kilometre cost and expenditure incurred are in relation to the aforesaid factors.

(d) and (e) As per PMGSY programme guidelines, ensuring the quality of the road works is the responsibility of the State Governments who implement the programme. A Three Tier Quality Control Mechanism has been put in place under the PMGSY. The first tier is at the Project Implementation Units (PIUs) level and the second tier is independent quality monitoring at the State level. The first two tiers of the quality control structure are the responsibility of the States implementing the programme. The third tier is envisaged as an independent monitoring mechanism at the Central level. Under this tier, the independent National Quality Monitors (NQMs) are engaged by National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) for inspections of roads, selected at random.

Complaints about various irregularities in the construction of roads under PMGSY are received from time to time from various States including the State of Bihar. As per Programme Guidelines, complaints received through the Ministry of Rural Development / NRRDA are normally sent to the State Quality Coordinators of respective States for enquiry and necessary action as ensuring the quality of the road works is the responsibility of the State Governments who are implementing the programme.

In case an adequate response is not received within the stated time schedule, the NRRDA deputes an NQM(s) and further follow up action is initiated on the basis of NQM reports.

During the year 2012-13 and 2013-14 (up to October, 2013), 63 such complaints in respect of all states including the State of Bihar have been received in NRRDA. Out of these, 02 complaints were referred to the State and in the case of remaining 61 complaints, NQMs were deputed for enquiry. Out of these, in 17 cases irregularities were noticed and these reports have been sent to the States for rectification and appropriate action. Statements showing State-wise details of complaints received during the year 2012-13 and 2013-14 (up to October, 2013), are enclosed as Annexure.